

4

A  
DECLARATION  
Of the Lord  
PROTECTOR  
And both Houses of  
PARLIAMENT,

*For a day of solemn Fasting and  
Humiliation, to be observed  
in all places within the Common-  
wealth of England, Scot-  
land and Ireland, upon the  
Eighteenth day of May, 1659.*

}  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*London, Printed by I. S. 1659.*

May 10, 1909, 1909-5

THE HARVARD-YENCHING LIBRARY  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY LIBRARY  
1210 LAY  
MAY 11 1916

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

ASSOCIATION

OF THE

STUDY OF

THE

CHINESE

London, Printed by A. 1909.

5202  
2552



E look upon it as a duty Incumbent upon us, who are set upon the Watch Tower to declare what we see, and seriously weighing the condition of these three Nations by Gods waies towards us, & our waies towards him, and the present posture of Affairs among us: We cannot but have sad thoughts and apprehensions of the tokens of Gods just displeasure against us; as for the waies of the Lord wherein he hath walked towards us, they have been waies of multitudes of mercies in vicissitudes of dangers; For in the saddest dispensations of his providence towards us, he hath in the midst of Iudgment remembered mercy, and hath seemed to say as of old to *Ephraim*, and *Israell*; how shall I give thee up *England*? how shall I deliver you *Scotland* and *Ireland*? how shall I make you as *Admah*? how shall I set

stand

A 2

you

*yea Zebaoth* my heart is turned within me,  
 my repentings are kindled together,  
 yet we cannot say, that his wrath is turn-  
 ed away, but his hand is stretched out  
 still, for though we have been emptied  
 from vessell to vessell, yet we can finde  
 no rest or settlement; we see not our signes,  
 nor any that can tell us how long: This is a  
 Lamentation, and if our wayes towards God  
 in all this be considered, it must be for a  
 Lamentation; for instead of humbling our  
 selves under the mighty hand of God, and  
 meeting him in the wayes of his Iudgements,  
 we turn our backs upon him, cast him out of  
 mind, vex his holy Majestic with our murmu-  
 rings and complainings of Events, repining at  
 the Miscarriages of Instruments; envying, cen-  
 suring and fretting against one another, no  
 man in the mean time laying his hand upon  
 his own heart, saying what have I done: how  
 highly is God provoked by our great Aposta-  
 cie and backsliding, arising Chiefly from  
 want of receiving the truth in the love there-  
 of, whereby these Nations are overspread with  
 many blasphemies, and damnable heresies a-  
 gainst God himself and his glorious attri-  
 butes

butes, against the Lord Iesus Christ his Person, his Offices, and his merits; against the holy spirit, against the word of God the only rule of faith and life, by denying the authority thereof, and crying up the light in the hearts of sinfull men as the rule and guide of all their actions, besides many other abominable errors, which have opened a wide door for the letting in of the most horrible contempt of the Ordinances and Institutions of *Iesus Christ*, of the Ministers and Ministry of the glorious Gospell, together with the growth of grosse Ignorance, Atheisme and prophaneſſe of all sorts, such as are vaine, swearing and cursing, prophanation of the Lords-day, Drunkenneſſe, Vncleanneſſe, and other ungodly courses for which the Land mourns : And besides all this, (that which should be cause of deepeſt humiliation to us, and is of high provocation to God) is the great scandall given by professors, and the sad divisions amongst them, whereby Religion hath been so wounded in the House of their Friends; And that which makes these abominations the more nationall (and gives us the more cause to be humbled for them) is the too

much remissness and connivance of the civill Magistrates (to whom belongs the care of maintaining Gods. publique worship, honour and purity of doctrine aswell as of punishing all sins against the second Table) in permitting the growth of these Abominations, by suffering persons under the abuse of Liberty of Conscience to disturbe the publick Ordinances, and to publish their corrupt principles and practises, to the seducing and infecting of others : And that which makes all those sinnes to be out of measure sinfull, is, That they are against so many signall deliverances and mercies under such a glorious sun shine of the Gospel, and contrary to so many Covenants, Vowes and Protestations personal and National. Nor are we in this day of our humiliation to forget the Iudgements of God, whereby he gives these Nations tokens of his displeasure; That in the mid'st of all our Changes and Unsettlements, he hath still left us in the dark, and hid Counsell from the wise, so that hitherto we have not attained unto that happy settlement in Church and State, which hath layn so much upon the spirits, and hath bin so much in the prayers and desires

desires of all that fear him, That there hath bin so great a mortality upon man and beast in many places of this Nation, besides the decay of trade, & the great dearth which is amongst us, which if the Lord be not so mercifull as to send seasonable weather, may threaten a famine. These things seriously considered; Is there not a cause to sanctifie a Fast, to call a solemn Assembly, to gather the Elders, and all the Inhabitants of the Land into the house of the Lord our God, to cry mightily unto the Lord: For which purpose, as also to implore a blessing from God upon the Counsels and proceedings of this present *Parliament*; his Highnesse the Lord *Protector* and the *Parliament* do appoint, That in all places within *England, Scotland and Ireland*, and the Dominions thereto belonging, the Eighteenth day of *May* next be set apart and observed as a day of solemn fasting and humiliation in all Churches, Chappels & Congregations within the same; and we do will and require all Ministers, and Pastors of Congregations, to read or cause to be read this *Declaration* in their severall Churches, Chappels and Congregations on the Lords day next before  
the



the said day of publick fasting to the end the same may be the better taken notice of; And we doe also hereby will and require all Iustices of the Peace, and other Officers to see that the said day be duly observed; And we do prohibit all Fairs, Markets, opening of Shops, and other ordinary Labours and employments, and all recreations upon the said day.

*This Declaration was thrice read in the House of Commons and engrossed and sent to the other House for their Concurrence.*

**F I N I S.**



